

**HB 5277: An Act Concerning the Establishment of Technical Standards for Medical Diagnostic Equipment that Promotes Accessibility in Health Care Facilities.**

**This bill will require doctors' offices and medical facilities across the State to provide medical equipment that meets US Access Board specifications.**

March 7, 2022

Dear Chairs and Appropriations Members:

My name is Gabriel Teles, and I am a person with a disability employed at one of the 5 Independent Living Centers here in CT. I am writing to testify that I support the HB 5277 bill to establish technical standards for medical diagnostic equipment that promote accessibility in health care facilities across the state.

As a person with a disability, I have been working at the Center for Disability Rights, the Independent Living Center serving New Haven County. I have been working with coworkers and consumers who face challenges when comes to having medical diagnostic equipment available at their out-care patient clinics.

Many doctors' offices do not have accessible medical diagnostic equipment (MDE) and durable medical equipment (DME), forcing individuals, including those with a disability, to seek help elsewhere or not meet their needs. An example is the need for an industrial wheelchair scale (MDE) and Hoyer lift (DME), which not all doctors' offices have. This limits access to any individual who uses a wheelchair to see their doctor. They must travel long trips and meet with other PCP who have those MDE and DME to do their medical examination.

MDE and DME equipment is essential for people to keep their routine maintenance, and without it, the potential for hospitalization will be more significant and will be a greater cost to the state later. The availability of MDE and DME equipment prevents individuals and individuals with disabilities from going to the nursing home.

Please establish technical standards for Medical Diagnostic Equipment that promote accessibility in health care facilities.

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